

Message Text

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41

ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 NSC-05 /055 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9082

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 1109

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TGEN, ETRN, US, UR

SUBJECT: US/USSR COOPERATION IN TRANSPORTATION: RAIL (0530)

EXCHANGE OF RAILWAY TIES, COUPLER (REFERENCE MADE TO 05.0504)

DEPT PLEASE PASS DOT FOR ALLEN TPI-42

REF: STATE 17524, MOSCOW 975, MOSCOW 959,

1. EMBOFF 26 JANUARY ADVISED LEVTONOV, SCST, OF CONTENTS REFTL AND REQUESTED THAT LEVTONOV VERIFY THAT SHIP CAPTAIN AWARE THAT CEREMONY TAKING PLACE 26 JANUARY. LEVTONOV REPLIED THAT SHIP'S CAPTAIN HAS BEEN INFORMED OF CEREMONY, AND HE WILL VERIFY THAT DATE HAS BEEN FORWARDED. COMMENT: THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME CONFUSION AT SCST BOTH FROM LEVTONOV'S ABSENCE LAST WEEK AND FROM CONCOMITANT ACTIVITIES UNDER TRANSPORT AGREEMENT OF SOVIET SHIPS PALESSK (PICKING UP COUPLER - 05.03) AND PALEV (PARTICIPATING IN SELCALL - 05.05-04). IN ANNOUNCING SCHEDULE CHANGE (REF B), ISHCHENKO SAID "PALEV," TO WHICH EMBOFF REQUESTED NAME OF SOVIET OFFICIAL WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN SELCALL EVALUATION. ISHCHENKO, AFTER A PAUSE, SAID THAT IT WAS SHIP PICKING UP COUPLER. EMBOFF SAID THAT THIS HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED AS SHIP PALESSK AND REQUESTED ISHCHENKO'S CONFIRMATION THAT SHIP PALESSK; ISHCHENKO CONFIRMED.)

2. RE CEREMONY FOR RAILWAY TIES, LEVTONOV RESPONSED THAT
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SOVIET SIDE WOULD LIKE ASSURANCE FROM US SIDE THAT ALL "FORMALITIES,"

INCLUDING CUSTOMS CLEARANCES, HAVE BEEN TAKEN CARE OF BEFORE
COMMITTING TO HAVE CEREMONY. LEVTONOV OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD BE
"EMBARRASSING" TO HAVE PRESS RELEASE AND CEREMONY PREPARED, AND
THEN DISCOVER THAT TIES COULD NOT BE OFF-LOADED. EMBOFF COMMENTED
THAT, IN VIEW PARTICIPATION OF DOT OFFICIALS, SUCH EMBARRASS-
MENT WOULD BE MUTUAL, AND PROMISED TO PASS REQUEST THAT CUSTOMS
AND OTHER FORMALITIES BE ARRANGED. PLEASE ADVISE.
STOESSEL

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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